

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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STREETS.
MANCHESTER OFFICE, 128 HULL
STREET.

SUNDAY,.....MAY 10, 1896.

THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COM-
 BINED TELEGRAPHIC-NEWS SER-
 VICE OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCI-
 ATED PRESS AND THE UNITED
 PRESS.

STREET-CARS, PAST AND PRESENT.

Great as has been the extension of our
 street-car facilities in recent years, there
 are yet seekers of franchises before the
 City Council. The public demand for
 additional service is not yet satisfied, and
 the probability is that in the course of a
 twelvemonth our many miles of track
 will be added to by several short lines
 connecting with existing systems.

Historically speaking, the street-car ser-
 vice of this city may be divided into three
 different periods—the ante-bellum period,
 the post-bellum period, and the electrical
 period. About 1860 a horse-car line was
 constructed on Main street between Ninth
 and Libby Hill, and was in operation
 when Virginia seceded. It remained in
 existence for some time during the war,
 when it was discontinued, because its iron
 rails were needed for defensive purposes,
 and because horses and mules were
 scarce, and those employed in drawing
 the cars could be more advantageously
 employed drawing artillery and ammu-
 nition. Whether the rails were used on
 the iron factory at Chaffin's or Brewery's
 Bluff, on James river, or were made into
 armor for one of our James-river iron-
 clad fleet, or were sent to the Tredgar
 and rolled into other shapes for other
 war uses, we know not; but that the first
 street railway that Richmond had was
 sacrificed upon the altar of our country,
 so to speak, we believe, is accepted history
 here.

The war over, and Main street having
 been cleared of the ruins left by the
 evacuation fire, northern capitalists se-
 cured the street-car franchise, and built
 the line which was the precursor, if not
 the parent, of all the lines that we now
 have. The line began on Main street
 near the Lower gas-works, and extended
 up Main to Ninth, up Ninth to Broad,
 up Broad to Adams, up Grace to a distant
 cross-street, and thence out Reservoir
 street to the reservoir—that is to say, to
 the only reservoir we had then, now "The
 Old Reservoir."

When this line was projected there were
 about seven Federal soldiers quartered at
 Camp Grant near Harpersburg, and the
 company derived a large revenue from the
 soldiers, so long as they remained there,
 which was not very long. When the
 soldiers left Camp Grant, or rather
 not very long afterwards, the Reservoir-
 street branch was abandoned, and was
 only retained when "the electric period"
 of street-car service dawned upon Rich-
 mond.

In these olden times immediately suc-
 ceeding the war the street-car fare here
 was 10 cents, and for a considerable
 period, by a military order, whites and
 blacks patronized separate cars. Gradu-
 ally the street-car fare was reduced,
 first to four tickets for a quarter, and
 then to 5 cents for each fare, as at
 present.

Considering the growth and prosperity
 of the city, the street-car service here
 was at a very low ebb when, in 1888, the
 promoters of the electric line succeeded
 in getting from the City Council the
 franchise for the line now most generally
 known as "the Church-Hill line."

It was not without doubts that our
 people saw the first electric lines built
 here. True, a few such lines were already
 in operation in other cities, or in the
 suburbs of other cities, but nowhere
 was an electric car threading such
 crowded streets as ours, nor climbing
 such steep grades, nor rounding
 every difficulty here was successfully
 overcome, though not without much ex-
 perimenting and at no little expenditure
 of money. Thus the capability and re-
 liability of the trolley-car were demon-
 strated, and the trolley has become a
 world-wide favorite.

Richmond owes a prodigious debt of
 gratitude to those of her citizens and
 others who were instrumental in estab-
 lishing the Church-Hill line. That line
 gave a tremendous impulse to building
 operations, particularly in the suburbs,
 and caused the Main-street line to im-
 prove its service and finally to adopt
 electricity as a motive power. But before
 the latter was done we believe the line
 had been bought up by the owners of the
 Church-Hill line. And Manchester, which
 in those days was reached from Richmond
 only by a stage line, soon came to have
 no less than three street-car lines.

And now the consolidated companies of
 Richmond have a competitor in the Traction
 Company, which has built a superb
 double track from Chalmers Park to the
 Exposition-Grounds, and which will
 form an iron bond of union between
 Church and Shockoe hills. Nature did
 much to separate these two hills, but man
 has undone her work to some extent.
 Previous to about 1855 a great chasm
 separated the hills. This was overcome
 by rearing the arch over Shockoe creek,
 and making the great "B" of earth upon
 which a roadway was constructed from
 the old African church to where the
 Chesapeake and Ohio depot now is. But
 until electricity was developed as a giant

motive power, the great Broad-street hill
 was deemed too steep for any street-car to
 climb. A few years ago the general idea
 was that a viaduct would have to be built
 to connect the hills, but now the Traction
 Company is confident that its 190-horse
 power motors will whisk a loaded car
 up the Broad-street grade easily enough,
 and that a viaduct will be unnecessary.
 Heavier and longer grades have been
 overcome elsewhere by trolley-cars, and
 so we are quite sure to see the Traction
 Company's cars running from the East
 End to the West End in a few weeks.

Our present and most immediate con-
 cern is to see the Exposition-Grounds so
 connected with our city as to make it
 certain that the crowd at the Confederate
 reunion will be properly "handled." If
 we fail in this we would have better not
 invited the old soldiers here, or, certainly,
 would have better built the auditorium
 in the city. We want all the street-car
 lines to reach the Exposition-Grounds,
 but we consider it settled that the City
 Council is not going to do anything
 to impair the value of the franchise
 granted to the Traction Company. This
 being the case, the old company would
 better set to work to extend its tracks
 from Main street to the Exposition-
 Grounds, and so arrange as to throw
 most of its cars upon the Main-street line
 during the reunion. Thus it would earn
 the gratitude of the people here, and
 enable Richmond to appear to great ad-
 vantage before her visitors, and the com-
 pany might reimburse itself in fares for
 the whole outlay. There's no time to
 lose; what the company is going to do it
 ought to do quickly.

THE TWO-THIRDS RULE.

It seems to be difficult to explain the
 operation of the two-thirds rule to the
 satisfaction of everybody.
 What is the two-thirds rule? It is a
 rule which was adopted by Demo-
 cratic national conventions long before
 the war between the States to protect
 the Southern States, or, rather, the in-
 stitution of slavery, from being uncon-
 stitutionally interfered with. Inasmuch
 as it required a two-thirds vote in con-
 vention to nominate any candidate for
 President of the United States, and the
 Southern States constituted more than
 one-third of the States, it was a
 clear case that nobody could be nomi-
 nated for that office who was objection-
 able to the Southern people.

There has been much talk at times
 of leaving out that rule from the num-
 ber of those to be adopted by Democratic
 national conventions. In St. Louis in
 1874 there was a great deal of such talk;
 but the talk all "ended in smoke."
 The same sort of palavering is now
 going on; but we trust that that
 "Good old rule and simple plan"
 will be adopted by the Chicago conven-
 tion. There is nothing that can be sub-
 stituted for it. If the free-silver men
 are afraid of not being able to com-
 mand a two-thirds vote in the Demo-
 cratic National Convention, they must
 recollect that the sound-money men will
 be hampered by the same rule. In a
 word, the rule will work in the interest
 of the Democratic party, and not in the
 interest of any small section of it.

How as to the platform of the Demo-
 cratic National Convention? If the con-
 servatives in the convention shall have
 strength enough to adopt the two-thirds
 rule, the operation of that rule will be
 to empower those conservatives to pre-
 vent any platform from being nominated
 to which the friends of the two-
 thirds rule may object. Perhaps it will
 be admitted, too, as we have repeatedly
 said, that the Democratic platform can
 contain nothing to which even a bare
 majority may object.

All the work is to be done in Chicago.

WHAT THE WORKINGMEN NEED.

The New York Journal of Commerce
 has not turned a deaf ear to the cries
 that came up from the workmen, but
 has striven to ascertain what they need.
 That paper speaks of them as follows:
 When the prices of produce were higher
 they could save a surplus that served
 them during the interval of spending
 between the selling of one crop and the
 harvesting of the next. Now, they largely
 lack that working capital, and therein
 lies the chief cause of their trouble—a
 trouble so serious that the grave discon-
 tents it breeds are no matter of sur-
 prise. The manufacturer and the mer-
 chant, notwithstanding their ample cap-
 ital, find it necessary to borrow largely
 in order to provide raw material, wages, and
 goods, and to carry them until they can
 convert the products into money or its
 equivalents. The banks supply such
 wants through loans and discounts; with-
 out which industrialists and merchants
 will soon become as badly pinched as
 are the farmers and the rural tradesmen
 to-day. True, the classes thus cramped
 can get a certain amount of credit from
 those of whom they buy their supplies;
 but that kind of credit carries with it a
 subjection to the creditor that is in
 various ways very costly and often very
 embarrassing, and which rarely fits the
 necessities of the borrower.

In plainer words, what these classes
 really need is a source of credit.
 Now, let the Journal explain how and
 by whom this "resource of credit" is to
 be supplied, and the good work of putting
 an end to hard times will begin at once.

The Hon. Warner Miller tells the New
 York Sun that after careful inquiry he
 feels sure that the St. Louis convention
 will declare positively and unequivocally
 against the free coinage of silver. It is
 the belief of Mr. Miller that the Chicago
 convention will do likewise, in which
 event he thinks there will be an imme-
 diate improvement in business, as all
 causes for alarm on the currency ques-
 tion will then be removed. Mr. Miller
 predicts that very few of the free-silver
 Republicans of the West will bolt the St.
 Louis nominations.

The Sun reports that Cleveland's recent
 civil-service order has discouraged many
 Republicans who hoped to get places
 (now beyond their reach), in case Mc-
 Kinley should be elected.

The letter of Hon. John Goode, which
 we published yesterday, presents in a brief
 space a convincing argument against the
 folly of dividing our party upon the uni-
 form question. Mr. Goode is well known
 to Virginians as a man of excellent temper
 and trusty judgment, and we, therefore,
 expect his letter to be influential in de-
 termining the counties that are yet to
 elect delegates against any endorsement
 or sanctioning of the proposed change in
 the Virginia system.

Let us stick to the old rule, which has
 worked well, and which once saved us
 from imminent danger of wreck and ruin.
 The woman question boils up sorely
 enough in church conventions and else-
 where, but never disappears with the
 lack of disturbance that might be
 wished. Ever-entirely we hope it will
 be disposed of to the satisfaction of all
 concerned.

THE CUBAN CRISIS.

It would seem that our relations with
 Spain touching the Cuban issue are ap-
 proaching a more acute crisis than has
 developed at any time since the present
 struggle for independence on the island
 began. There are several conditions and
 circumstances that point in the direction
 indicated. To begin with, Mr. Morgan's
 joint resolution demanding belligerent
 rights for Cuba will doubtless start an-
 other heated agitation of the Cuban
 question in Congress, and whether it passes
 or not, much may be said in the debates
 that will be calculated to increase the
 Spanish Government. Further the re-
 opening of the question by Congress is
 likely to lead to intemperate utterances
 on the part of the Spanish people and
 press that can hardly fail of increasing the
 feeling against Spain among the masses
 in this country.

Should the resolution pass the Presi-
 dent could not lay it upon the executive
 table indefinitely, as is competent with
 concurrent resolutions, such as the Cuban
 belligerency resolutions adopted by Con-
 gress last month. Under the Constitution
 it would have the same status as an act
 of Congress and would have to be treated
 in the same way.

Of course, it is impossible to say with
 certainty what the President would do in
 the event of the passage of the resolu-
 tion. He is very much inclined to a policy
 of his own on most questions, and so far
 his Cuban policy has been conciliatory
 and his disposition has been to "go slow."
 His appointment of General Lee to be
 Consul General to Havana has been ac-
 cepted, both at the North and the South,
 and by the Republican as well as by the
 Democratic press as an evidence of a
 desire to inform himself thoroughly as
 to the situation in Cuba and the claims
 of the revolutionists to belligerent rights
 before committing himself decisively upon
 the belligerency issue. Aside, however,
 from any influence the Morgan resolution
 and its discussion might have in increas-
 ing the tension between the country and
 Spain and forcing a determination of
 the issue, a complication has arisen that
 in itself is pregnant with the danger of
 precipitating a crisis, if not actual hos-
 tilities. We allude to the Competitor in-
 cident. The latest news regarding this
 matter is that all of the prisoners taken
 from that vessel have been sentenced to
 death, and there can hardly be a doubt
 that if the sentence is carried out the
 American citizens among the prisoners
 there will be trouble. Indeed, it is not
 going too far to say that any delay or
 dilly-dallying about according the Ameri-
 cans all the privileges recognized by the
 rules of civilized warfare may bring on
 trouble. It will be remembered that in
 1872, when the Virginia affair occurred,
 the people of this country were clamorous
 for war, although they had but recently
 passed through a terrible conflict.
 Fully appreciated what war meant. Pa-
 tience and conciliation averted hostilities
 then, and Spain made all the repara-
 tion demanded. But the American people
 are in no mood now to listen to the
 apostles of patience and conciliation.
 They are infinitely more wrought up over
 the stories of Spanish atrocities in Cuba,
 and infinitely more inclined to assert the
 power of the nation to protect the rights
 of its citizens abroad than they were in
 1872. They are infinitely more inclined to
 give the Cuban revolutionists practical
 proof of their sympathy than they were
 at that period. When these considera-
 tions are weighed, the gravity of the situa-
 tion and the possibility that the Presi-
 dent may find it necessary to inaugurate
 a vigorous Cuban policy can be well un-
 derstood.

MCKINLEY'S PLATFORM.

We repeat here the announcement
 which we made last week that Governor
 McKinley needs only a merely formal
 endorsement by the Republican National
 Convention to make him the Republi-
 can nominee for President of the
 United States. He has had the good
 luck to capture already delegates enough
 to place him at the head of the Republi-
 can forces. He captured them, too,
 at a time when their declarations in
 favor of him counted in effect the same
 as so many votes in the national con-
 vention. Anyhow, the work of that con-
 vention would be over, and there would
 be little practical advantage in its as-
 sembling, if it were not for the neces-
 sity of laying down a national plat-
 form.

We published in November, 1893, ex-
 tracts from a speech made at Dayton,
 O., October 26, 1893, by Governor Mc-
 Kinley, in which he defined his position
 as he had declared it in that speech. It
 was in pamphlet form, and the title-
 page read as follows:

"Review of the Great Public Questions:
 Finance, Tariff, and Pensions."
 In this speech Governor McKinley de-
 clared himself freely in favor of the policy
 outlined in his pamphlet, and in addition
 thereto came out against any new sys-
 tem of State banks. He stood for the
 Republican measures of finance, for a
 protective tariff, and for pensioning the
 old soldiers without examining too close-
 ly into their claims upon the country.
 He still stands where he stood in 1893,
 and we proceed, to give a few extracts
 showing his position as a Republican
 leader, and indicating the planks which
 it will be necessary for the Republicans
 to put into the platform which they
 will lay down at St. Louis. At Dayton,
 Mr. McKinley said:

"We never had just such a business
 condition as we have to-day. The old-
 est man in this audience cannot re-
 call anything like it. We have had
 panics and hard times many times be-
 fore, but never such an extraordinary
 business situation."
 The reader will notice that in 1893,
 the country was suffering from "an extra-
 ordinary business situation." We quote
 again:

"On the subject of money the Republi-
 can party has not reversed its policy.
 It stands where it has always stood. It
 believes in gold and silver and paper
 money, and that every kind of money
 we use must be issued by the Govern-
 ment of the United States, and by no
 power less than that government. (Ap-
 plause, and a voice, "No wild-cat
 money.")

"No State bank money, but every dol-
 lar that circulates must be national
 money."
 How will the expert bankers and
 other financiers sustain Governor Mc-
 Kinley in the declaration that every dol-
 lar that circulates must be national
 money? On the tariff question, or ques-
 tion of protection, here is a short ex-
 tract from what Governor McKinley said.
 We quote again:

"You might just as well make up your
 mind that you cannot buy your goods
 abroad and make them at home. If you
 do not make them at home you will not
 employ labor at home. If you buy them
 abroad you employ the labor abroad, and
 not the labor at home. If you employ
 the labor at home, the wages of that
 labor are spent at home. If you employ
 the labor abroad, the wages of that
 foreign labor are spent abroad. The more
 we produce, the better the wages of the
 people are. The less we produce, the
 less wages goes to labor, for where there
 is only one day's work and two men

to do it, neither of them will get as
 good wages as though there were two
 good work and only one man to do it."

We give now a short extract from
 what Governor McKinley said at Day-
 ton on the pension question. He said:
 "And the Republican party wrote every
 line of public law under which the sol-
 diers are drawing pensions to-day, and
 no Republican President ever vetoed a
 private pension bill (Applause). The
 pension roll is a roll of honor. No un-
 worthy man should be there. When a
 soldier has once been put there by the
 judgment of the Secretary of the Inter-
 ior and the Commissioner of Pensions,
 he must not be put off without due pro-
 cess of law."

These are very brief extracts, but
 they are timely, and are just what a
 great many persons are looking for just
 now.

Women are not persons. So, in sub-
 stance, says the following paragraph in
 the Baltimore Sun of Saturday. We quote:
 "The new charter of Loch Lynn
 Heights, Md., confers upon all persons
 over 21 years of age, and who have re-
 sided not less than six months in the
 town, the right to vote at town elec-
 tions, but last Monday the judges of
 election decided that women are not per-
 sons, and so they could not vote."

The decision was based, we think, upon
 the fact that the Constitution of Mary-
 land limits voting to males. The Legis-
 lature had no right to fix the qualifica-
 tions of voters.

The House of Representatives did not
 thing more than was right and proper
 when it provided for allowing members
 of the House to have clerks. It is im-
 possible for a member of the House
 to attend to all the correspondence
 which is forced upon him by his constitu-
 ents, and others. But writing letters
 is only one of the many services which
 a congressman needs a clerk to perform
 for him. Each member needs a clerk
 for his constituents.

The Blues are well named, and yet they
 have only to appear on parade to put the
 blues to flight. They are a feast for the
 eyes. Their anniversary celebration al-
 ways means much for all Richmond.

There don't seem to be any Republi-
 can aspirants to the vice-presidency, and
 yet Republicanism is politically vicious
 enough, in all conscience.

Speaker Reed is very silent, and yet he
 can't be counted. There is nothing in
 particular for him to count.

A street-car fender that will fend its
 way is wanted.

The papers are already suggesting Cab-
 inets for "President" McKinley.

Not Always.

"Two heads better than one,"
 So the ancient saw doth run;
 So the youthful couple thought
 While, their days with pleasure fraught,
 They in household realm did see
 Only sweet tranquility—
 So they thought, indeed, until
 Destiny one day did will
 That a mother-in-law should come
 To their paradisaic home;
 Then, at least, in ruling power,
 It was proven from that hour—
 Demonstrated through and through—
 One head better was than two.

It Shocked Him.

"I'm awful fond of driving, miss,"
 Her awful would-be suitor said,
 As passing teams gave emphasis
 To thoughts the moment bred.

"So's pa; he's quite a whip, they say,"
 She answered him, "No doubt,
 If you should come around some day
 He'd gladly drive you out."

Getting Even.

Dentist (who has just concluded a
 somewhat epicurean repast): It seems to
 me that your charges are rather exorbitant.

Caterer: Do you think so?
 Dentist: Indeed I do; particularly when
 you gave me to understand that your
 prices were very reasonable.

Caterer: So they are, in the main; but,
 as you said to me when I mildly excepted
 to your last bill—some filling is more ex-
 pensive than others.

A Licensed Thief.

Officer: Why Perkins, what are you do-
 ing out in the rain at this late hour?
 Perkins: Sh-h! There's a thief in the
 house.

Officer: A thief in the house? Why,
 man, let's go right in and take him.
 Perkins: Excuse me, but that's just
 what I'd have to do if I went in; you see,
 it's that new baby of ours that's robbed
 me of my night's rest for the last week.

There Was a Difference.

Dumberton: It's astonishing how indif-
 ferent some men are to the requirements
 of success.

Flasher: It is, that's a fact.
 Dumberton: There's Loyerman, for in-
 stance; he always seems to take things
 just as they come.

Flasher: That's nothing. I know many
 men who are too indifferent to even think
 of taking anything until after it has gone.

Placing a Hit.

Mother: So that naughty boy next door
 struck you, did he?
 Freddie: Yes'm.

Mother: I sincerely hope that you didn't
 strike back.
 Freddie: No, ma'm; I landed onto his
 jaw.

The editor generally makes his activity
 apparent in running comments.

When it comes to economical habits
 the seaside bath has the call.

If money talks, all money must be
 "sound" money.

It is the fervid rhymester who becomes
 a versifier.

A knotty problem—measuring a vessel's
 speed.

Presents of mind—gratuitous advice.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Is the voter who takes part in the pri-
 mary election for delegates to the State
 Convention, morally bound to support the
 nominee of the Chicago Democratic Con-
 vention?
 FRIEND.

Looks Like Gag Law.

(Danville Review.)

Another menace that confronts the
 party is the adoption of the unit rule at
 St. Louis for the government of the dele-
 gates at Chicago. Precedents favoring
 this are plentiful, but they do not apply
 to other States as they do to Virginia.
 A large majority of the papers of the
 State, both free-silver and sound-money,
 are opposed to the rule. It looks too
 much like "gag" law for Virginians, who
 love fair play. Its adoption will tend to
 divide the party in the State, and can-
 not accomplish any good. We have a
 wily foe to meet. We shall find him

alert, aggressive, and powerful. Under
 the leadership of an astute general, the
 Republican party will make a supreme
 effort to capture the State and to carry
 the congressional districts. Should it
 succeed, we will all know what to ex-
 pect.

Would Tend to Harmony.

(Lynchburg Advance.)
 Judging from the way the county
 conventions are voting on free silver,
 there will be very little necessity or ex-
 cuse for the Staunton convention to
 adopt the unit rule. The convention will
 elect four delegates at large to the
 Chicago convention. They will be for
 free silver. If the districts choose dele-
 gates of the same way of thinking, as
 now seems probable, the Virginia dele-
 gation would have unity without the
 unit rule. Would it not be good policy,
 then, for the Staunton convention to
 abstain from adopting the unit rule,
 and thereby giving offence to the gold-stand-
 ard element of the party? Such a course
 would tend to preserve the harmony and
 unity of the Virginia Democracy.

Unalterable Opposition.

(Danville Register.)
 Once again the Register would reit-
 erate its unalterable opposition to the
 unit rule in a Democratic convention
 in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, or
 any other State. Those who desire to
 apply it in the Virginia convention do not
 argue that it is just or Democratic, but
 merely claim in justification that it has
 been used in other States. This is beg-
 ging the question.

The Contented Gaffer.

(St. James's Gazette.)
 I cannot drive a decent ball.
 I either top or slice or scuff,
 And yet I do not heed at all
 The rule spectator's jeering laugh.
 My second never is clean hit,
 I do not care a little bit.
 A clerk is of no use to me,
 I play two iron shots instead,
 And all my clubmates must agree,
 I never play a long shot dead.
 And though I feel the class coach,
 I'm always short in my